REMARKS

In the Office Action the examiner rejected Claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 through 3 and replaced them with Claims 4 and 5 which have been drafted to eliminate the phrases which the examiner cited as rendering the claims indefinite.

The examiner also rejected Claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baetz et al. (DE 29719794 hereinafter Baetz) in view of Acquardo et al. (USPN 3,706,973 hereinafter Acquardo).

It is important to understand that computers of the PC type, especially when they use the MS Windows operating system, comprise several processing levels for the data delivered by the keyboard. As is known in the art, a code is normally assigned to a key of the keyboard, and this code is transmitted to the operating system. The software normally uses the same codes as the operating system.

A known solution to adapt an old version of the working system to new software is to provide a conversion table. This means the code generated by the keyboard is received by the operating system as such and sent to the software. Only at that stage the software may use conversion tables for converting the transmitted code into a predetermined character.

As regards to the Euro, for example, the symbol "€" which is generated by the keys [Alt Gr] + [E], the code .... is transmitted from the keyboard to the operating system. It is this code transmitted to a software which must utilize a conversion table for generating the non-standard symbol "€" on the screen.

There are simple programs which use the BIOS directly for rendering the codes as well as for showing them as readable symbols. Here resides the problem to be solved by the present invention: the BIOS does not convert the code into a readable symbol but shows only a general symbol for all not defined codes. In particular, this problem is present in program editor applications which do not use the conversion tables.

The use of all forms of "drivers" or conversion tables does not serve to resolve this problem because BIOS does not use them. It is only at a more sophisticated level, such as word processing software, that the conversion tables as described in document IE80421 and DE-29719794U can partially solve the problem of the supplementary characters. It should be noted that IE80421 cited by the EPO examiner describes supports readable by a computer and containing a font file comprising a new or special character such as the Euro symbol. However, this font file is used by the operating system and the softwares, but is not rendered resident in the system because once the file has been loaded into the computer, it still must be selected by an application software to assign said symbol to a key of the keyboard.

The problem discussed above is solved by the present invention which proposes a means for a quite simple modification which, one single time, modifies and completes the information system to render resident the supplementary functions. The modification is made one time and becomes resident in the machine of the system. Thus, not only the keyboard, but also the software can directly use the new character in the form of the symbol.

The enclosed new Claims set forth in more detail applicant's invention and in particular emphasize that the modification to accommodate the non-standard symbol is made only one time and thereafter becomes resident in the machine.

In the specificztion is set forth a process for updating a numerical system for processing data, in a computer for integrating for use a non-existing supplementary symbol, wherein the system is updated a single time for rendering resident in the system the supplementary symbol and making it available for direct use by the operating system as well as by software.

The Specification also describes the software for achieving this result.

Turning to the references cited by the examiner, the German utility model 29719794 is believed to have been cited because it describes a keyboard having a key representing the Euro symbol. However, it does not disclose a method or means to enable an existing numerical system for data processing to have a key for a non-existing supplementary symbol key by updating the system one single time for rendering resident the supplementary symbol in the system to thereby make the supplementary symbol available for direct use by the working system and the software.

Additionally, turning to USPN 3,706,973, this patent also does not teach or disclose a means to enable an existing numerical system for data processing to have a key for a non-existing supplementary symbol key by updating the system one single time to thereby render resident the supplementary symbol in the system to make the supplementary symbol available for direct use by the working system and the software.

Accordingly, applicant believes that the new set of Claims patentably distinguishes it from the prior art cited by the examiner.

Applicant has enclosed herewith an Information Disclosure Statement listing two patents which were referenced in an associate's reply brief to an EPO Office Action, a copy of which was provided to the undersigned on November 13, 2003. The undersigned did not file any corresponding foreign application.

Applicant believes that new Claims 4 and 5 now are in condition for allowance and such action respectfully is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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